

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 00024 041124Z

13

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 INR-07 CIAE-00 SP-02 PRS-01

RSC-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /040 W
----- 060256

R 040930Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9714
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
SECDEF WASHDC
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0024

LIMDIS

SECDEF FOR ISA

E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, BA, SA
SUBJ: RETAINING MIDDLE EAST FORCE IN BAHRAIN

REF : A. MANAMA 1045; B. JIDDA 7161; C. FBIS LONDON 040123 DEC

1. MUCH AS WE WOULD LIKE TO HELP MAINTAIN MIDDLE EAST
FORCES ON BAHRAIN, WE FEEL, AS DOES MANAMA, THAT IT IS
UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT SAG TO FAVOR PUBLICLY THE RETENTION
OF MIDEASTFOR IN THE GULF. BELIEVE WE REACHED HIGH WATER
MARK ON THIS ISSUE WHEN SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AGREED TO CONVEY SAG SUPPORT OF MIDEASTFOR PRESENCE PRI-
VATELY TO GOB LAST JUNE.

2. SINCE JUNE, ARAB NERVES HAVE BEEN PUT ON EDGE BY
CONTINUED SPECULATION IN U.S. PRESS OVER POSSIBILITY OF
MILITARY TAKEOVER OF OIL FIELDS. VISIT OF CONSTELLATION
TO GULF SERVED ONLY TO FUEL SUCH SPECULATION IN ARAB
MINDS, AND FORCED SAG MIN DEF SULTAN TO STATE PUBLICLY,
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 00024 041124Z

IN RESPONSE TO QUERY BY THE PRESS, THAT FOREIGN FLEETS

MUST BE KEPT AWAY FROM THE ENTIRE ARAB NATION, WITH
EXECPTION OF FRIENDLY PORT VISITS (REFS B & C). IN SHORT,
ATTEMPT TO GAIN PUBLIC SAG SUPPORT FOR MIDEASTFOR PRESENCE
WOULD BE A NONSTARTER AT PRESENT.

AKINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
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